

What is claimed is:

1. (withdrawn)
2. (withdrawn)
3. (withdrawn)
4. (withdrawn)
5. (withdrawn)
6. (original) A system for reducing friction during movement of a valve, comprising:
 - a flow distributor;
 - a valve seat;
 - a drive associated with said flow distributor for moving said flow distributor from a first stationary position to a second stationary position;
 - a source of compressed gas in fluid communication with said flow distributor;
 - a first regulator for supplying said compressed gas to said flow distributor at a first pressure sufficient to seal said flow distributor against said valve seat when said flow distributor is in either said first or said second stationary position; and
 - a second regulator for supplying said compressed gas to said flow distributor at a second pressure less than said first pressure when said flow distributor

moves between said first and second stationary positions.

7. (original) The system of claim 6, further comprising a solenoid in communication with said first and second regulators for alternating which said regulator supplies said compressed gas to said flow distributor.

8. (original) The system of claim 7, further comprising a dump valve downstream of said solenoid for selectively preventing the flow of compressed air to said flow distributor.

9. (original) The system of claim 6, wherein said drive comprises a hollow drive shaft, and wherein said compressed air is in fluid communication with said flow distributor through said hollow drive shaft.

10. (original) The system of claim 6, wherein said flow distributor comprises a top surface having a plurality of apertures, and wherein said seal is formed by said compressed air flowing out said apertures and creating an air cushion between said top surface and said valve seat.

11. (withdrawn)

12. (withdrawn)

13. (withdrawn)

14. (withdrawn)

15. (original) A system for reducing friction during movement of a valve, comprising:

a flow distributor;

a valve seat;

a drive associated with said flow distributor for moving said flow distributor from a first stationary position to a second stationary position;

a source of compressed gas in fluid communication with said flow distributor;

a pressure regulator for supplying said compressed gas to said flow distributor at a first pressure sufficient to seal said flow distributor against said valve seat when said flow distributor is in either said first or said second stationary position and for supplying said compressed gas to said flow distributor at a second pressure less than said first pressure when said flow distributor moves between said first and second stationary positions.

16. (withdrawn)

17. (withdrawn)

18. (withdrawn)

19. (withdrawn)
20. (withdrawn)
21. (withdrawn)
22. (withdrawn)
23. (withdrawn)